

# Worksession

**Agenda Item #**

6

**Meeting Date**

April 9, 2007

**Prepared By**

Ronald Ricucci  
Chief of Police

**Reviewed By**

Barbara B. Matthews  
City Manager

## Discussion Item

Discussion of Speed Camera Program

## Background

On March 12, 2007, Montgomery County launched the *Safe Speed* program, Maryland's first automated speed enforcement. The County was granted the authority to operate the cameras by the State of Maryland in 2006 as a pilot automated speed enforcement program in residential areas and school zones with speed limits of 35 mph or less. The municipalities of Chevy Chase Village, the City of Gaithersburg, and the City of Rockville have implemented speed enforcement programs under the same law.

The goal of the Safe Speed program is to reduce speeding on residential streets and streets near schools in an effort to prevent injuries and fatalities among pedestrians and motorists. The cameras are an additional tool available to police in speed enforcement. By law, revenues from speed camera fines must be used for public safety programs and improving pedestrian safety.

The contractor would supply fixed location cameras or a mobile station consisting of a van and a camera or both. Staff is recommending that the City employ only one mobile station. The City would be required to provide an operator for the mobile station.

The first step in implementing a program is a traffic survey to determine which locations are in most need of speed reduction efforts. The streets chosen must meet the standards set by the State of Maryland. Camera locations are posted on the jurisdiction's web site prior to the cameras becoming operational.

Montgomery County has contracted with ACS State and Local Solutions, Inc. to provide a comprehensive speed enforcement program. The municipalities of Chevy Chase Village, the City of Gaithersburg, and the City of Rockville "piggybacked" on the County's contract and have started their programs.

Chief Ricucci will be present at the meeting to provide more information and to answer Council questions.

## Policy

Council approval is required to enter into a contract for speed enforcement services.

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<p>Initial start-up costs would include a traffic study to determine appropriate camera locations. The survey is expected to cost between \$5,000 and \$6,000. To implement the mobile station, the City would need to hire a technician to operate the van and the mobile station. The contractor would handle all the other work and costs.</p> <p>The personnel cost for the operator is expected to be about \$57,000 in salary and benefits for the first year.</p> <p>Operational costs depend on the type and number of cameras. The cost of a speeding ticket is \$40 and would be split, with the Contractor receiving \$16.25 and the City receiving \$23.75.</p> <p>Once the program is operational, it is anticipated that revenues received from speed camera fines would be more than sufficient to cover all operational costs.</p>
<b>Attachments</b>	None
<b>Recommendation</b>	Speed cameras would provide the Takoma Park Police Department with an additional tool available to address the community's concerns about speeding. The Chief of Police recommends that the City move forward with an automated speed enforcement program.
<b>Special Consideration</b>	The City Manager's proposed budget does not reflect any costs associated with the implementation of an automated speed enforcement program. Should the Council wish to proceed with one, the budget will need to be amended accordingly during the reconciliation process.